

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1 - 34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method of using a shock absorber adjusting device, said method comprising:

arranging a shock absorber system to include a shock absorber adjustment nut that is configured to facilitate adjustment of at least one of a spring or shock absorber making up said shock absorber system, said shock absorber adjustment nut comprising:

an inner surface comprising a thread with which to engage a complementary thread on said shock absorber; and

an outer surface comprising a plurality of teeth disposed thereabout ~~such that said teeth can engage said pawls to make said nut responsive to rotational movement of said wrench, said inner surface;~~

configuring a shock absorber adjusting device to comprise:

a handle with a proximal end and a distal end;

a head coupled to said distal end and defining an engaging member that is configured to couple to said shock absorber adjustment nut to facilitate rotation thereof a nut-engaging member coupled to said handle, said engaging member defining a race therein; and

a ratcheting mechanism comprising pawls that make up at least a portion of said race, said ratcheting mechanism cooperative with said engaging member ~~such that upon ratcheting rotation of said device about said shock absorber adjustment nut threaded along a substantially longitudinal axis of said shock absorber, at least one of said shock absorber or said spring coupled thereto can be adjusted;~~

coupling said device to said shock absorber adjustment nut such that said plurality of teeth can engage said pawls to make said shock absorber adjustment nut responsive to rotational movement of said device; and

ratcheting said device to effect an adjustment to said shock absorber adjustment nut.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, ~~further comprising placing an adapter ring between said shock absorber adjustment nut and said engaging member to facilitate said coupling therebetween~~ wherein said plurality of teeth define a substantial entirety of the periphery of said shock absorber adjustment nut.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 35, further comprising placing at least one thrust bearing against at least one of said adapter ring or said shock absorber adjustment nut.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising configuring said device to include a hinge disposed between said head and said handle to facilitate pivotal movement therebetween.

39. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising configuring said head of said device to include:

a closed end disposed adjacent said distal end of said handle; and

an open end disposed away from said closed end, said open end configured to allow placement of said device over said shock absorber system to facilitate engagement of said device and said shock absorber adjustment nut.

40. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein spacing between adjacent teeth of said plurality of teeth is up to six degrees.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein spacing between adjacent teeth of said plurality of teeth is such that an angle subtended by said ratcheting rotation is four degrees per ratchet click.

42. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising forming an angular bore in said shock absorber adjustment nut, and securing said shock absorber adjustment nut to said shock absorber with a securing member disposed in said bore.

43. (New) A method of adjusting a shock absorber, said method comprising:

threadably situating a shock absorber adjustment nut on said shock absorber, said shock absorber adjustment nut comprising a plurality of teeth disposed about a substantial entirety of its outer periphery;

placing a wrench on said shock absorber adjustment nut such that they engage one another, said wrench comprising a handle and an engaging member coupled to said handle, said engaging member defining a race with a pawled ratcheting mechanism that forms a complementary engagement with said plurality of teeth; and

ratcheting said wrench to effect cooperative rotation and concomitant movement in said shock absorber adjustment nut along a threaded axis of said shock absorber.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said engaging member is hingedly coupled to said handle.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein said plurality of teeth are spaced by no more than six degrees apart.